(c) how many banks have been bought by SBI in different countries so far; and

(d) what has been the financial results of each of them for the last financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State Bank of India (SBI) has acquired 62% stake in Indian Ocean International Bank Ltd. (IOIB), Mauritius, and 76% stake in PT Bank Indo Monex of Indonesia.

(d) As on 31.03.2007, IOIB, Mauritius has posted a net profit of USD 1.47 million, with balance sheet size of USD 181.91 million, while the PT Bank Indo Monex incurred a loss of USD 0.15 million which balance sheet size of USD 39.70 million. However, after taking over its management control by SBI, the PT Bank has posted a net profit of USD 0.13 million in the first half of the current year i.e. April - September, 2007.

Branches of Nationalized Banks in Ahmedabad

1563. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the total number of branches of Nationalized Banks in Ahmedabad City and District of Gujarat;

(b) how many requests/demands from "public for opening new branches of Nationalized Banks are pending; and

(c) what are the requirements and guidelines for opening new branches of Nationalized Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As reported by the Dena Bank, the Lead Bank of District Ahmedabad, there are presently 480 branches and 563 branches of Nationalised Banks functioning in Ahmedabad City and District Ahmedabad, Gujarat, respectively.

(b) and (c) In terms of Branch Authorisation Policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) updated on July 2,2007, banks have been given freedom to submit their Branch Expansion Plans to RBI for approval on annual basis. Banks have the freedom to select centres for opening of new branches, which they decide based on factors like the business potential, commercial viability, availability of infrastructure etc. and they are encouraged to open branches in underbanked centres. Further, there is no restriction on banks to serve the clients in any locality at a centre.

Requests are received from time to time from members of public for opening of new bank branches at various centres, which are forwarded to respective banks for necessary action. Banks decide such requests on merit and based on business potential and other factors at the particular entres.

Levy of rural development cess on agriculture produce

1564. SHRl C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) wether it is a fact that Government proposes to impose levy of rural development cess on agriculture produce;

(b) if so, the details of expected fiscal collection by this levy;

(c) whether Government has analysed the negative impact on agricultural sector due to such proposed development cess on agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is no such proposal presently, with the Government.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Direct tax collection

†1565. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the direct tax collection during the year 2007-08; and

(b) the ratio of corporate tax and personal tax in the collection of direct tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The provisional net direct tax collection up to Oct 2007 is Rs. 1,28,864 crore and is up by Rs. 38,846 crore over the net collections during the corresponding period in 2006-07 at a growth rate of 43.15%.

(b) The ratio of the Corporate Income-Tax and Personal Income-Tax in the provsional net direct tax collection up to Oct 2007 is 61:39.

Service tax on services provided in other countries by Indian industries

†1566. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is levying service tax on the services provided by Indian industries in other countries;

(b) whether levying of service tax on services in other countries is justified;

(c) whether any Minister of Government had announced taking back this tax on 1 st April, 2007, which is yet to be implemented; and

(d) by when Government is going to abolish the service tax on the services provided in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Chapter V of Finance Act, 1994 containing provisions relating to service tax extends to whole of India except the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Taxable services provided, whether or not by an Indian industry, outside India and consumed outside India do not fall within the scope of the said Act.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Bilateral Air Service Agreement

1567. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has entered into bilateral Air Service Agreements (ASAs) with many countries including SAARC countries;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.